

The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

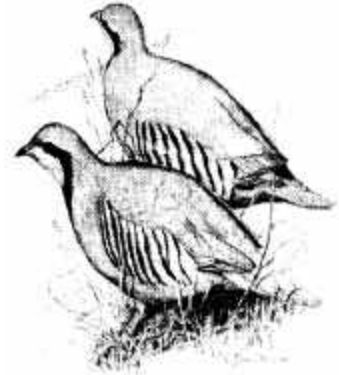
April 27, 2004

Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

Present:

Ballantyne, Todd
Damjanovich, Rob
Gaskill, Jim (Chair)
Mitchell, Dean (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)
Perkins, Ernie
Proctor, Travis
Sorensen, Ryan (Secretary)
Staley, John
Townsend, Brad



Old Business

Trapping and Transplanting

Trapping of California Quail has been completed. A total of 327 birds were moved. Birds were trapped from situations where they were being a depredation problem.

Walk-In Access

The DWR is in the process of hiring a Walk-In Access coordinator. This person will work with private land owners within the Northern Region to provide hunting and fishing opportunities for the public. The Walk-In Access program is to be implemented Jan. 2005. This project is a three-year pilot program. The committee expressed appreciation that all the hard work seems to be finally showing progress.

Pheasants Forever State Council Meeting April 10

There was discussion about Habitat Specialists from Pheasants Forever. As stated on the Pheasants forever website: Each team is run by an experienced habitat specialist that can help plan projects, assist in verifying federal program qualification, and manage projects in order to maximize wildlife potential. Future cooperative projects could assist private land owners in the Box Elder and Cache counties.

Dog Training

Rule R657-46 The Use of Game Birds in Dog Field Trials and Training

The regulations pertaining to dog training are up for renewal and will go before the RACs and the Wildlife Board, starting on July 26th. Please send comments, suggestions, and changes to Dean Mitchell. deanmitchell@utah.gov

New Business

Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Count Report

The total number of birds counted by volunteers went up from 291 last year to 350 this year – nominally an approximate 20% increase. However, a direct comparison of the data is not possible as: some sites from last year were burned off and not counted this year, some new sites not known last year are included in this years count, and the count on some sites was compromised by early snow, arrival of sheep, poison, and guard dogs.

Greater Sage-grouse Listing

The Greater Sage-grouse has been petitioned for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The USFWS will continue review of the petition through the end of the year.

State Fair Participation by the Utah Chukar Foundation

The Utah Chukar Foundation will share the DWR booth at the Utah State Fair. They will assist with questions and information about guzzlers. A miniature guzzler will be on display.

Upland Advisory Committee Goals

There was some discussion of future goals. Some of the general goals were: support hunting, increase awareness of upland game, support the DWR upland programs, advocate for sportsmen in the legislature.

Upland Game on the Internet

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State Office at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Future meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon.

Topics will be:

Review of upland proclamation

Update on NRCS/Pheasants Forever project

Status of proposed new guzzlers

Update on 2004 chukar/guzzler study

Final report of 2004 STG lek counts

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity for you to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an electronic mail input, please send it to one of the following:

Dean Mitchell deanmitchell@utah.gov
Hal Smith hmsmith@allwest.net

Ryan Sorensen
Jim Gaskill

ryan@mybirddog.com
jhgaskill@weber.edu

Respectfully submitted ...

Ryan Sorensen